

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

### Intercounty Connector Project

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic William Thomas Property

and/or common Howard Sacks Property

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number 16801 New Hampshire Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Silver Spring ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

**3. Classification:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Howard Sacks

street &amp; number 16801 New Hampshire Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20904

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 5905

street &amp; number Montgomery County Judicial Center folio 54

city, town Rockville state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date \_\_\_federal \_\_\_state \_\_\_county \_\_\_local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 2

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William Thomas Property is a 2-story, 5-bay vernacular house on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue in the Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1853, the building is a complex plan consisting of a central side-gable section flanked by two front-gable sections. The front elevation has a 1-story shed roof porch on the central section and the rear elevation has a 1-story shed roof addition across the central section and the north front-gable section.

The structure has an asphalt shingle roof, with an interior brick chimney located in the east gable end of the north front-gable section. The house is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding, and it has a parged foundation. The windows consist of wood 2/2 double-hung, wood 6/6 double-hung and replacement vinyl double-hung and casement. The house has a 1-story shed roof porch on the front elevation. The porch has three turned wood posts supporting the asphalt shingle roof. The porch floor is a concrete slab.

The west, or front facade has an entryway located in the central section. The doorway has a wood panel door with 4-lights. Also on the first story of the central section is a pair of vinyl 6/6 double hung windows. The first story of the north gable section has a single wood 2/2 double-hung window, while the first story of the south gable section has a single wood 6/6 double-hung window. The second story has two vinyl 4-light casement windows in the central section. The north gable section has a single wood 2/2 double-hung window on the second story, while the south gable section has two vinyl 6/6 double-hung windows.

The north elevation of the north gable section has a symmetrical fenestration pattern. Both the first and second stories have two wood 2/2 double-hung windows. The north gable section has the same width as the center section, while the south gable section extends further to the rear than the other sections. The north elevation of the extension has a vinyl 6/6 double-hung window on the second story. The north elevation of the 1-story rear addition has a fixed wood 16-light window.

The rear elevation has a wood deck extending across the entire first story. The first story has a 1-story shed roof addition. The addition, which covers the central and north sections, has a pair of wood 6/6 double-hung windows and a pair of sliding glass doors. The first story of the south section has a pair of sliding glass doors. The second story of the south section has another set of sliding glass doors which open onto a wood balcony. The second story of the central section has three vinyl 4-light casement windows, while the north section has a single 2/2 double-hung window.

The south elevation has a pair of wood 6/6 double-hung windows and a single vinyl 6/6 double-hung window on the first story. The second story has two vinyl 6/6 double-hung windows.

There is one outbuilding associated with this property. Constructed circa 1900, the shed is of wood-frame construction with vertical wood siding. The shed is located northeast of the house.

The property is located on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue, with residential property to the north and a wooded area to the south.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1853

Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William Thomas Property was originally situated on land which William Thomas inherited from his father, Richard Thomas, in 1809. According to the records of the Montgomery County tax assessor, a house was constructed on the land in 1853. The house is indicated on Martenet and Tind's 1865 Map of Montgomery County. In 1872 William Thomas transferred 29.13 hectares (72 acres) of land known as "Glencoe" to his son John Thomas. The residence is located on Hopkins' 1879 Atlas of Montgomery County in John Thomas' name. William J. Thomas inherited the land from John Thomas in 1919. William J. Thomas reduced the size of the parcel in 1937 when he sold most of the land, 27.72 hectares (68.5 acres). In 1946 William J. Thomas deeded .40 hectares (1 acre) and the house to Malcolm and Patricia Thomas. The house passed out of the Thomas family in 1951, and was subsequently sold a number of times. The parcel associated with the premises was reduced in 1976 to 2,023 square meters (21,780 square feet). The lot currently retains this size. The present owners, Howard and Ann Sacks, acquired the property in 1982.

The William Thomas Property is located along New Hampshire Avenue, north of the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Spencerville Road. Although the mailing address is the Colesville section of Silver Spring, the property is located close to Spencerville. The village of Spencerville is located on land originally patented in 1703 as "Bear Bacon" and in 1715 as "Snowden's Manor Enlarged" in what was then Prince George's County. In 1850, William Spencer of Pennsylvania settled in the area when he led his relatives and others from Southhampton Township, Pennsylvania into Montgomery County. A small community called Drayton was formed by Spencer on the Laurel Road (present Spencerville Road), which connected the Quaker settlements of Sandy Spring and Ashton with the railroad line at Laurel. The settlement was renamed Spencerville in 1859 in honor of William Spencer.

In the late nineteenth century, Spencerville reached its peak of importance as an economic and social center. The town contained over 100 residents, as well as two stores, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a physician's office and a grange.

The town began to decline in the first few decades of the twentieth century as the local economy shifted from agriculture to a reliance on the industries and job opportunities created by the federal government. The town was small and rural until after the Second World War, when rapid economic growth in southern Montgomery County and improved roads made Spencerville accessible to new residents. Empty lots in the town were filled with modern residences, while the surrounding area retained a rural character. Many of the old working farms remain, however, the area continues to grow into one of the major suburban centers outside of Washington, D.C.

# CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: William Thomas Property

SURVEY NO.: M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

ADDRESS: 16801 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County

## 8. Significance (Continued)

The William Thomas Property is a vernacular farmhouse first constructed in 1853. Several additions have been constructed to the building, resulting in a complex building form which exhibits the utilitarian features and social function of the cottage style.

Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front-gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily one to one-and-a-half-stories tall, three-bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually two to two-and-a-half-stories tall, are typically two to three-bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

### NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The William Thomas Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as its architectural and material integrity has been compromised by additions and alterations. The house has been sided with vinyl siding and most of its windows have been replaced. Some of the alterations include the installation of vinyl shutters, a 1-story addition across the rear elevation and a wood balcony constructed on the second story of the rear elevation. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer, OPS: Andrew L. ...

Date: 6/15/02

Reviewer, NR Program: ...

Date: 3/10/02

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Survey No. M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Clarksville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Caroline Hall/Tim Tamburrino

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date October 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: William Thomas Property

SURVEY NO.: M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

ADDRESS: 16801 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, Inc., 1962.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.

Rockville Historic District Commission. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. Rockville, Maryland, 1973.

Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

**STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

**RESOURCE NAME:** William Thomas Property

**SURVEY NO.:** M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

**ADDRESS:** 16801 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County

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## 10. Geographical Data (Continued)

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**Resource Sketch Map:**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

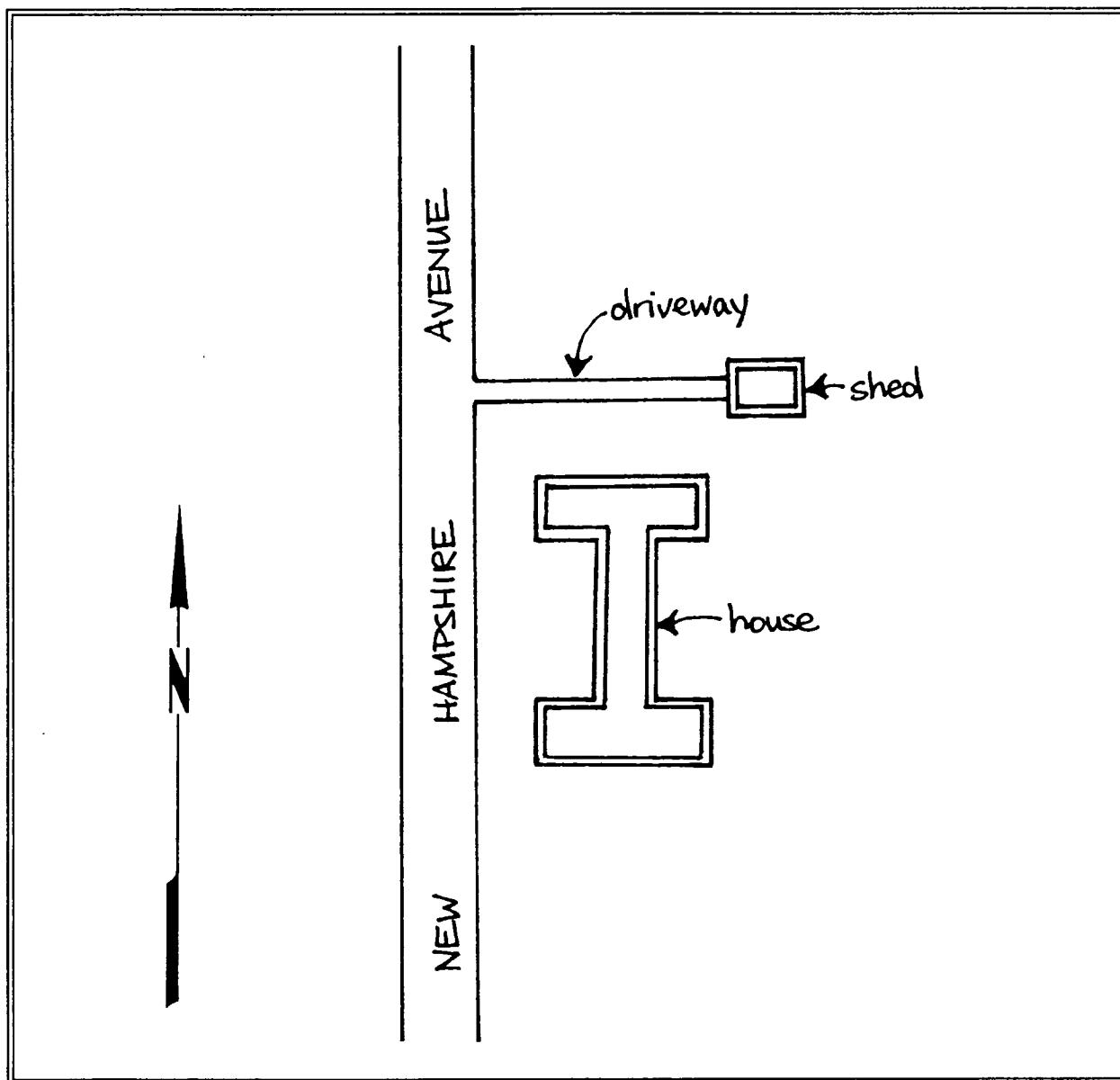
SOURCE NAME: William Thomas Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 15-73 (PACS D4.11)

ADDRESS: 16801 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County

## 10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:





CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: William Thomas Property

SURVEY NO.: M:15-93 (PACS D4.11)

ADDRESS: 16801 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

10) Agricultural-Industrial Development A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

2) Architectural, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Dwelling

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

October 1996

Inter County Connector Project  
Northern Alternative  
Quad Clarksville  
Survey No. D4.11 M:15-93

William Thomas Property





1. 10 1/2 10 3/4

2. 10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4

3. 10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4

4. 10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4  
10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4

5. 10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4  
front element 10 1/2 10 3/4

6. 10 1/2 10 3/4







1815

1. William Henry Harrison

2. John Adams

3. George Washington

4. Thomas Jefferson

5. James Madison





1. 1015-73

2. 1015-73

3. 1015-73

4. 1015-73, 1015-73, 1015-73  
1015-73, 1015-73

5. 1015-73, 1015-73, 1015-73  
1015-73, 1015-73

6. 1015-73



